

REV. LIBBY MAE GRAMMER

Minister, Author, Scholar

www.libbygrammer.com

STATEMENT OF VISION

As a minister of the Gospel and a Baptist Christian Ethicist, I seek to merge the work of practical theology, Christian ethics, and pastoral leadership in order to fully realize the diverse and inclusive nature of the Kingdom of God and its realization on Earth through God's people.

EDUCATION

D.Min.	(2019)	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (Justice & Peacemaking)
M.A.	2015	University of Virginia, Graduate School of Religion Theology, Ethics, & Culture Program (Christian Feminist Ethics)
M.Div.	2010	Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology (Academic Research, Christian Ethics)
B.A.	2007	Shorter College (<i>summa cum laude</i>) Major: Spanish Minors: Religion, English Member, <i>Academy of Aristaeus</i> (Honors Program) Study Abroad: Seville, Spain, January-Spring 2006

ORDINATION

Ordained to the Gospel Ministry, First Baptist Church Fort Oglethorpe, GA, December 12, 2010.

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Pastoral Resident

River Road Church, Baptist, January 2018-present

Focus: Intensive, post-graduate pastoral training within this teaching congregation. Responsible for intentionally studying and supporting the church's Pastoral Ministries.

- *Preaching:* Hone preaching skills, preaching in worship as assigned and other venues. Participate in critique of sermon writing and delivery. Compile list of pastoral literature to subscribe. Create and maintain a Preaching Database from the material read through the course of the residency.
- *Worship:* Oversee the planning of weekly worship and special services, including the writing of litanies and prayers, assigning roles for worship leadership, etc. Lord's Supper and baptismal training.
- *Pastoral Care:* Weekly hospital visitation and make homebound visits as needed. Pastoral counseling as need arises. Baptismal counseling, funeral planning, and wedding planning, including pre-marital counseling.
- *Leadership and Administration:* Attend all and occasionally lead staff meetings. Attend meetings of all boards and committees. Participate in intentional discussions and training regarding:

- Personnel management and supervision and hiring of staff
- Creating and maintaining personnel policies
- Understanding the dynamics of staff configuration in churches of various sizes
- Writing for church ministry
- Church marketing and advertising
- Managing staff communications
- Denominational identity and awareness
- Operation of facilities: Learn to operate essential church systems including HVAC, Telephones, ACS, and Computer Network.
- *Missions*: Intentional learning conversations to understand philosophy and practice of missions/ serving ministry. Visit local mission partners and discuss their engagement with the community. Organize and lead a tour of local mission partners. Connect with the church's ongoing mission partnerships and look for ways to promote their work to the larger congregation. Learn River Road's guidelines for use of Fellowship (Benevolence) Funds. Go on a mission trip and help lead the trip.
- *Christian Education*: Further understand the philosophy and practice of all ages and types of educational ministry, including shadowing and teaching in children, youth, young adults, and older adults small groups. Participate and lead in Vacation Bible School. Plan and implement one major church-wide Christian Education event (lecture, retreat, etc.).

Interim Minister of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation

River Road Church, Baptist, September 2015-December 2017

Focus: Planning & implementing the church's ministries of education, spiritual formation, and leadership development.

- Providing administrative direction, including planning and implementation, to ministries, programs, and events related to Christian education and spiritual formation.
- Participating in and planning worship services, including weekly bulletin creation and development, weekly worship service participation and leadership, and planning of special services (Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve, summer vespers, baptisms, and others). Providing supply preaching as needed.
- Overseeing a network of small groups, with special attention to groups promoting spiritual formation, leadership development, and fellowship.
- Teaching adult programs on a wide variety of topics, including devotional material, spiritual direction, ethics and theology, and others.
- Preparing and submitting an annual education budget to the appropriate board.
- Assisting lay and paid leadership in recruitment and training for all age levels, with a priority for adult lay leadership.
- Working with other staff and laity to advance the church's efforts to create fellowship and provide an atmosphere of community.
- Working with the communications specialist to enhance the church's internal and external communications, including but not limited to: writing articles and blog posts, website and social media oversight, including troubleshooting and editing, photographing events and posting to various church publications, distributing event flyers and other materials, overseeing new member photography.
- Participating in pastoral care, including visitation for members and prospects.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Immigration Paralegal

Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, May 2007-May 2017.

- Trained in complex immigration law, assisting in procuring various types of visas, overseeing a case load of hundreds of different situations and people.
- Advocated for clients by assisting with research and case oversight with attorney.
- Assisted in preparing many different kinds of forms and correspondence.
- Learned and mastered the use of an electronic case management system, becoming the top trainer and Senior Paralegal on the immigration team.
- Assisted high-level corporate clients as well as family-based clients, providing service and care as the day-to-day person with whom the clients interacted at our firm.

PUBLICATIONS

Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: Understanding Undocumented Immigration through Feminist Christian Ethics. [Wipf and Stock Publishers](#): Eugene, OR, 2017.

Personal/Ministerial Blog at www.libbygrammer.com

Ministerial/Theological Blog on Huffington Post

Religion: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-libby-m-grammer/>

Ministerial Blog at River Road Church Baptist Pastor's Blog:

<http://www.rccb.org/writer/libby-grammer/>

Writing devotionals for Smyth & Helwys *Reflections*, as requested.

Printed Master's Theses:

M.A. thesis, "Privilege, Risk, and Solidarity: How Christian Feminist Ethics Speaks to the Issue of Undocumented Immigration," University of Virginia, May 2015.

M.Div. thesis, "The Baptist Response to the Crisis of Undocumented Immigration," Mercer University, January 2011.

Online Articles:

"A Spiritual Perspective to our Online Etiquette," *EthicsDaily.com*, February 2013.

"For Christians, Immigration Reform Rooted in Solidarity," *EthicsDaily.com*. February 2013.

"In North Georgia, Signs of the Times?" *Associated Baptist Press*. October 2009.

"On Immigration, do Baptists believe the Bible?" *Associated Baptist Press*. September 2009.

RELEVANT CHRISTIAN ETHICS ESSAYS (*Unpublished/Available Upon Request*)

"Hope for the Helpless: A Review of *Compassionate Respect* by Margaret Farley," Ethics Class, Spring 2008.

"Seminar Paper: Chapters 4-10 of Mary Anne Warren's *Moral Status*," Ethics of Human Dignity Class, November 2009.

"Defining Human Dignity Post ETH 612.10," Ethics of Human Dignity Class, December 2009.

"For the Love of the Immigrant: Thinking Biblically and Missionally About the Stranger in Our Midst," Evangelism and Mission Class, November 2009.

"Spain's Medieval Muslim-Christian Relationships: What They Mean for Christians Today," Church History I Class, December 2010.

OTHER ESSAYS (*Unpublished/Available Upon Request*)

"The Works and Life of Anne Askew and Their Impact on the Modern Christian Woman," Church History II Class, May 2008.

"There's Something About Mary: A 21st Century Woman's Model of God Based on Divine Images as Portrayed Historically by the Virgin," Models of God Theology Class, May 2009.

"Ministerial Theological Reflection: A Conversation with a Holocaust Survivor," Mentoring in Ministry Class II, March 2010.

"The Case of the Generational Split: A Case Study for Generational Conflict in the Church," Capstone Class, October 2010.

"Barth, Baptists, and the Bible," Theology of Karl Barth Class, December 2013.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

"Immigration 2020 National Strategy Session," hosted by the National Immigration Forum, Washington, D.C. [Mission of Session](#): "Through panel discussions, networking and interactive technology, the session served as a provocative gathering of a unique mix of faith, law enforcement, business and civic leadership working at the economic and social forefront of a rapidly changing America. Building on a foundation of remarkable education and outreach across the country, the session developed a range of new strategies to craft an Immigration 2020 Agenda. Each panel will provide opportunities for interaction and dialogue, with the results shaping the work in the months and years ahead." Invited Participant with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Advocacy Group, October 23, 2014.

"A [Baptist] Conference on Sexuality and Covenant," hosted by First Baptist Church of Decatur, Atlanta, Ga. Cosponsored by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Center for Theology and Public Life, Mercer University. Participant & Planning Team Member, April 19-21, 2012.

"Government, Foreign Assistance, and God's Mission in the World," hosted by Bread for the World Institute and the Center for Applied Christian Ethics at Wheaton College. Conference Staff/ Assistant to Dr. David P. Gushee, May 2010.

QEP Conference, Mercer University Atlanta Campus, Leadership Team Member: Planning, Strategy, and Implementation, Spring 2010. Conferences Included (across the Atlanta Campus Disciplines): Hosting Holocaust survivor and author Fred Gross Presentation on his book *One Step Ahead of Hitler: a Jewish Child's Journey through France* and a Case-Based study and two-stage discussion of the challenges of a child with autism, his parents, and the educational system, with a focus on the concept of Practical Wisdom as a moral grid.

"Thinking About Character: Character Across the Disciplines," The Phronesis Project at Mercer University (Macon Campus), Invited Participant in a Case-Based Study and Discussion, April 2010.

Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting, Presenter, June 2009.

"Religious Faith, Torture, and Our National Soul," Evangelicals for Human Rights, Conference Staff, September 2008.

QEP Conference, Mercer University Atlanta Campus, Moral Reflection and Decision-Making. Participant, Spring 2008.

New Baptist Covenant, Attendee, Atlanta, GA, January 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

“Sarah Frances Anders: Social Scientist, Minister, and Woman.” Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting, June 2009.

“Spanglish: Una Mezcla Positiva for the 21st Century?” Senior Thesis Presentation, “Celebrate Shorter,” Shorter College, 2007.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Supply Preaching:

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
- Gayton Christian Church, Richmond, VA
- Lakewood Retirement Community, Richmond, VA
- Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Milford, VA
- University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, VA
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
- First Baptist Church, Rossville, GA

Educational Leadership:

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
 - Leadership of entire educational ministry for all ages
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
 - Leader and teacher for young adults and college students
 - Leader of Epiphanies adult small group discussion of faith and current events

Mission Leadership:

- River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
 - Panama, Asheville, local homeless ministry
- First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
 - Local homeless ministry
- Bormujos Iglesia, Spain
- Meizhou, China

Religious Non-Profit Ministry:

- *Translator*, Oak Grove School, 2015
- *Portrait Photography for Underprivileged Children*, Charlottesville, VA Photography Initiative

RELIGIOUS NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP

Board Member, Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry, 2017-present

Fellow, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Summer 2017

AWARDS/HONORS

Alpha Chi Honors Society, Member/Alumni Member, 2006-present

Sara Faust Excellence in Religious Writing Award, Shorter College, March 2007

Study Abroad, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies: Seville, Spain, January-Spring 2006

Randall H. Minor GPA Award, Shorter College, March 2006

Academy of Aristaeus Honors Program, Shorter College, 2004-2007
Dean's List, Shorter College, 2004-2007

FAMILY/HOBBIES

Avid hiker and photographer who has a soft spot for dogs and sunflowers. Author and blogger who loves to explore the world through writing. Married to William P. Underwood, Mathematician and IT Professional, and graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. We have three dogs, Boober (Lab/Irish Wolfhound mix), Paco (Pembroke Welsh Corgi), Samson (collie/shepherd mix).

REFERENCES

Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee
Seminary Major Professor,
Mentor
McAfee School of Theology
Mercer University
3001 Mercer University Drive
Atlanta, GA 30331
Gushee_DP@mercer.edu
(678) 547-6457

Dr. Robert D. (Bob) Dale
Ministry Leadership Coach
7090 Covenant Woods Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
bobdale40@yahoo.com
(804) 814-1463

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Quisenberry &
Rev. Maggie Quisenberry**
Pastor, Mentor, Friends
First Baptist Church
400 Gateway Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402
thomas@fbcchattanooga.org
mmquisenberry@mindspring.com
m
(423) 648-2540

Rev. Dr. Pam Durso
Executive Director
Baptist Women in Ministry
PO Box 941294
Atlanta, GA 31141
pamdurso@bwim.info
(404) 513-6022

Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Bagby
Minister of Pastoral Care
River Road Church, Baptist
8000 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229
dbagby@btsr.edu
(804) 288-1131

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Clingenpeel
Pastor Emeritus
River Road Church, Baptist
404 Portwest Terrace
Henrico, VA 23238-5564
mikeclingenpeel1@gmail.com
(804) 360-3534 (home)
(804) 921-2222 (cell)

Dr. Melissa Browning
Ethicist / Friend
McAfee School of Theology
Mercer University
3001 Mercer University Drive
Atlanta, GA 30331
browning_md@mercer.edu
(678) 547-6267

Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Glaze
Pastor
River Road Church, Baptist
8000 River Road
Richmond, VA 23229
danielglaze@rrcb.org
(804) 288-1131

Mr. Robert C. Divine, Esq.
Immigration Shareholder
Baker Donelson, et al
1900 Republic Centre
633 Chestnut Street
Chattanooga, TN 37450
rdivine@bakerdonelson.com
(423) 752-4416